

Lenn Park and the Lenn Park Airfield *contributed by John Hunton*



Mike Dale carries his scale RC Hurricane after an exciting flight. This model is typical of those that will be flying every weekend at Lenn Park Airfield.

A superb new radio-controlled (RC) model airplane flying site in Culpeper County is now open for use. An RC model club, the **Culpeper Model Barnstormers**, has been formed to develop, maintain and administer the field for the Culpeper County Parks and Recreation Department.

The flying site is located off Route 3 North on Stevensburg Road. Turn right after crossing Mountain Run onto an unpaved road and continue on almost a mile to the runway.

The flying site will be most active on weekends, so come by and see us. If you are interested in the hobby of building and flying radio-controlled model airplanes, you will find the Barnstormers ready to advise and help you.

This site was made available when the Lenn Brothers donated a parcel of land to Culpeper County. The site was to be developed mainly for ballfields, but there was a narrow area of the property deemed unsuitable for other uses, because it was in flood plain and it was nearly a mile off the main road in an undeveloped area, surrounded by farm land.

A few local modelers were invited to survey the tract, and we found it to be perfectly suited for use as an RC field and our use would be compatible with the planned ballfields. The Lenn brothers, donors of the land to the County, were full scale flyers and were very supportive of our proposed use of the land. We presented our layout to the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors, and they were also fully supportive.

Because of the recent funding concerns of the County, development of the ballfields may not be completed in the near future, but we were prepared to develop the flying site at no expense to the County, and this has been done.

The **Culpeper Model Barnstormers Club** and our new site are now open for full membership and use. The Lenn Park Airfield will be a great flying site for years to come. We owe a big debt of gratitude to the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors and the County Administration for their support of this project.

John Hunton, President, Culpeper Model Barnstormers



RC model flight is demonstrated by Bill McMemullen to a Park Authority employee while Nic Burhans looks on. Nic is treasurer of the Barnstormers Club and he has been caretaking the field since it was cleared.



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Virginia Cooperative Extension is Listening Strategic Planning

In early 2009, Virginia Cooperative Extension began a strategic planning process at the request of Virginia Tech Senior Vice President and Provost, Mark G. McNamee. The process will culminate with the development of a five-year plan that sets organizational priorities and develops goals and objectives for enhancing Extension's relevance, viability, and sustainability to the people of Virginia.

A Strategic Planning Steering Committee was named in May of 2009. The 26-member team believes the strategic planning process can help us envision our future and develop the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future. The future, however, often begins with a look to the past. By reflecting on our purpose, vision, and strategies for carrying out our mission, we can better determine how prepared we are to cope with the changing world.

The Steering Committee developed a structure to collect input from all Extension stakeholders, both internal and external, via a series of face-to-face meetings during the fall of 2009. We included agents, staff, specialists, administrators, government officials, ELC members, families, communities, 4-H, agribusiness, and other stakeholders in these dialogues. The richness of the ideas resulting from such interaction provide a solid foundation from which Extension can address the concerns and issues of those that we are charged to serve. The breadth of this involvement also enables us to think broadly to address the economic, environmental, civic and community engagement, and life quality issues that face all communities.

The input from these dialogues has been collected and is being analyzed by the Steering Committee. For more information please visit the VCE Strategic Planning Website at

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/strategicplanning>

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM - Adults

Brenda Watkevich, Program Assistant bwatkevi@vt.edu

THE "CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN" – A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

As our first growing season comes to an end, we would like to thank our partners the CFC Farm and Home Center for allowing us use of their property. The "Culpeper Community Garden" is a great asset to Culpeper residents in need. In its first season, many pounds of produce continued to find its way to the local food closet. Approximately 30 families participated with 27 plots being planted. We look forward to our next growing season.

Late fall and early winter are a good time to start making those gardening resolutions for next year. Start the season off by grabbing a copy of Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 426-312, "Planning the Garden." This brochure is available at your local office. Leafing through gardening magazines and seed catalogues will also help make your dream plot a reality.

A well-planned, properly managed garden can furnish a Culpeper family with flavorful, high quality, fresh vegetables from spring through fall. Some vegetables can also be processed or stored for winter. The amount of money invested in seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, and a few tools is more than offset by the savings at the grocery store. This enjoyable activity also promotes healthy outdoor exercise, and allows a person to appreciate fresh "homegrown" flavors.

In November, we began preparing the garden for the spring and are looking forward to another bountiful year. If you are interested in signing up for a "Community Garden" Plot, volunteering, or wish to donate items, please call the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Culpeper Office at (540) 727-3435.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Cristy Nibblins, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development

JoAnna Kilby, 4-H Program Assistant

nibblins@vt.edu

jlclark@vt.edu

The new 4-H year is underway and going full speed ahead with 4-H clubs, camps, workshops, competitions, and in-school enrichment. We hope you will check out some of our opportunities and join us. Remember: you do not have to be a current 4-H member to sign up for our activities. You can sign up at any time during the year.

4-H WINTER CAMP WEEKEND

As winter is upon us we are gearing up for this year's 2010 4-H Winter Camp. Last year was a huge hit, and we will not disappoint this year. The weekend camp is set for February 19-21, 2010, with loads of fun-filled events such as karaoke, video production, camp fire, and of course our end of camp dance! 4-H Winter Camp is located at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, VA. All boys and girls ages 9-14 are welcome. Call 540-727-3435 or email JoAnna Kilby at jlclark@vt.edu for registration information. Workshops for camp are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so register today to get rid of those winter blues.



4-H Winter Camp 2009

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in any Extension program, please contact Virginia Cooperative Extension, Culpeper Office, at 540-727-3435 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, one week prior to the event, to discuss accommodations.

Virginia Cooperative Extension A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University (Continued)

4-H SHARE-THE-FUN TALENT SHOW

4-H is gearing up for our annual 4-H Share-The-Fun Talent Show, and we are looking for you! Do you find yourself singing when you look in the bathroom mirror? Do you spend all your time in your parent's garage pounding on the drums or playing your favorite song on the guitar? Or do you love to perform stand-up comedy, magic tricks, dance or give dramatic monologues? If you find that any of these scenarios sound like you—check out our show!

There are 6 performance areas to choose from, and group acts are more than welcome. Get a bunch of your friends together and show off your talents at the 4-H Share-The-Fun Talent Show.

Performance Areas

Vocal: rap, yodeling, pop, etc; acapella or with musical accompaniment (only voice judged)

Instrumental: (only instrumental presentation judged)

Dance: tap, ballet, interpretive, modern jazz, acrobatic, folk, clogging, etc. (only dance presentation judged)

Drama: play, or scene from a play, monologue, mime

Variety: magic acts, stand-up comics, puppetry, impressionists, ventriloquism, clowning, juggling, circus acts, tumbling, gymnastics, step, lip sync, bird calls, karate

Combo: 2 or more of any of above categories, i.e. singing & dancing, singing & playing guitar (judged on all aspects of act) Bring own equipment (boom box, costumes, and props, etc.

No Special Effects (lighting)

Earn a blue ribbon at the County Level and take your act on to the District Competition!

This event is open to youth ages 5-19, and group acts are accepted. Maximum number to have in a group act is 4. For more information on this exciting 4-H event please call the Culpeper Extension Office at (540) 727-3435 or email JoAnna Kilby, Program Assistant, 4-H Youth Development at jlclark@vt.edu

4-H TEEN WEEKEND

Calling all Teens. The Northern Virginia 4-H Center will be hosting a *Teens In the Real World:*

Teen Weekend March 26-28,

2010. Find out what happens

when adults stop telling you what

to do and how to do it. The teen

weekend is a weekend like no other. Be prepared to enter “the real world” when you arrive. Real life situations, life skills workshops and some old fashioned 4-H camp fun thrown in for old time's sake. Teens will attend such classes as money matters, how to get a J-O-B, how to buy a car-the right way, preparing for college, smart decisions and of course fun things like low ropes, high ropes, archery and much more! Teen weekend programs are open to teens ages 14-18. For more information or questions about this fun-filled educational weekend please call the Northern Virginia 4-H Center at (540) 635-7171 or email Cliff Rigney at crigney@vt.edu

You can also visit www.nova4-h.ext.vt.edu/



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR)

Carl C. Stafford, Extension Agent, ANR

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ANIMALS RESPOND TO HUMAN ATTENTION/MANAGEMENT

People feel strongly about animals under their care, be they livestock, in the case of horses and cattle, or household pets. We know these creatures depend on us for much of their safety, their nutrition, and their well-being during times of stress. The interesting thing I have observed about animal care is that animals clearly respond to human attention. What I mean by this is that animals respond to management. If ignored they fail, if attended to they succeed.



Sheep are an excellent example of animals that respond dramatically to the presence of human management/attention. These small ruminants require some specific attendance during certain times of their production cycle. Considering they are meat animals and intended to feed humans, their offspring should grow rapidly at the least cost to the producer in order to offer a profit. Profits mean the farmer is running a sustainable operation and will be in business for the long run.

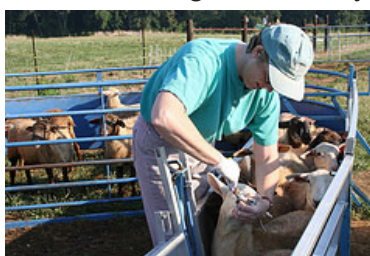
There are a number of problems that can cause sheep to fail in their primary purpose. Internal parasites are a good example, that all sheep producers know can ruin sheep performance and indeed even kill sheep or lambs, if overlooked. Management/human attention is a key ingredient to preventing this problem and sheep respond nicely to internal parasite control/management brought into the flock.

Another critical animal management input is during birthing. Sheep need to bond at birth and good shepherds know to keep the ewe and lambs together for a period of time, so this can take place. Once the ewe and lamb know each other, they can be turned out with the flock. Baby lambs born on a wet cold night can easily die of exposure. Knowing this, the good manager will have ewes give birth under cover, protected from the wind. If at all possible, good managers will attend to new lambs immediately. Those first minutes are crucial to helping with success at birth.



Canadian cattle producers are said to have much lower baby calf death rate at birth. Perhaps due to their colder weather, cows are inside when they calve and near people. Hands-on management results in improved performance.

By now you get my point that animals respond to human attention/management. Farmers who manage livestock must have the skill to recognize animal problems well before they are an issue. The best managers “read” their animals even from a distance. I once rode with two seasoned beef producers when, from a distance, they observed that their cows were not moving their tails. During the summer, active tails mean there is fly pressure, and managers know they transmit disease and suck blood.



Animal managers also prevent problems by introducing management before it is needed. They will vaccinate animals to prevent disease; they will provide minerals to balance nutrition; they will take action at birthing to avoid death. They are attentive to their animals, and we know this means they care about them, be they livestock or pets.

Good animal management requires human interaction with the animals, and the results will prove the effort.

Virginia Cooperative Extension A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University (Continued)



DID I MAKE MONEY FARMING IN 2009?

A frequent phone call that many extension agents receive in January each year begins with the statement. “I was summarizing my records to take to my tax person. I am not sure if I made money raising crops in 2009.” The extension agent’s favorite response is “It all depends on ...”

What are your costs for producing a crop? The Virginia Tech on line crops budgets web site <http://www.extension.agecon.vt.edu/enterprisebudgets.html> is an excellent place for producers to analyze the costs of raising a crop. The budgets are Excel spreadsheets that are user-friendly and can be downloaded to the producer’s computer. The following data is entered into the spreadsheets: projected yield, sale price on a per bushel basis, input costs for N, P and K, seed, herbicide, land rent, diesel fuel, labor and crop insurance. Are there outstanding bills for crop inputs (e.g. fertilizer, seed, and herbicides) that have not

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)—FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
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been paid? All inputs costs, including those that have not been paid, should be included in crop budgets to determine the cost of growing a crop.

The crop budgets include a fixed cost for machinery and equipment that is based on new equipment prices. Although all producers’ machinery costs are different, I encourage producers to include a machinery cost in the budget that is half or two-thirds of the equipment cost listed in the online crop budgets. Producers need to include a fixed cost for machinery in all crop budgets, because equipment wears out and eventually will be replaced. Producers must use their equipment to grow crops that will maximize their farm’s profits. By maximizing farm profits, the producer will have generated profits that will enable him to replace equipment.

Cost accounting is an approach to evaluating the overall costs that are associated with conducting business. Accurately allocating expenses (e.g. labor, repairs, supplies, fuel, and interest) between crop enterprises is difficult to perform because most farms grow more than one crop. I teach producers a quick and easy way to implement a cost accounting

system on their farms. Enterprise cost accounting can be done using Quick Books or account books.

A wise producer who clearly understood the cost structure for his farm had a favorite saying regarding farm profitability. “I am not in farming for cheap exercise! I have to make money or else I will not be in business. If I cannot make money growing a crop, the machinery will stay in the door yard! I am not going to work hard all my life and find all I have to show for my hard work is a yard full of worn-out and tired-out equipment!”

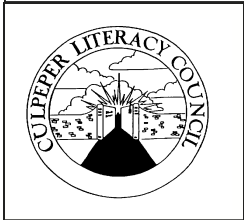
Farming is a risky business. Producers should consider using cost accounting in conjunction with Virginia Tech online crop budgets to accurately calculate the profitability of the crops being grown on their farms.

If you have questions regarding how to use online crop budgets and implementing a cost accounting system for your farm, please contact me at the Culpeper County Extension Office.



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Culpeper Literacy Council



Classes and tutoring are available for adults 18 and older.....

We offer GED classes and offer GED tutoring to inmates in the local jail. We provide one-on-one tutoring for those who wish to learn to read or improve their literacy skills. We also teach English as a second language and have EL Civics Classes available as well. Please call us for more information.

415 South Main Street, Suite 204
Culpeper, Virginia 540-825-5804 www.culpeperliteracy.com

Please help us to help others succeed. Culpeper Literacy Council is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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City, State, Zip _____
Ph: _____

Please make checks payable to: Culpeper Literacy Council
415 S. Main Street, Suite 204
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CAREER PARTNERS RECOGNIZED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

At its September meeting, the Board of Supervisors presented an Outstanding Achievement Recognition plaque to Career Partners for its “exemplary performance and service to the youth of Culpeper County.”

Career Partners was the recipient of the Virginia Department of Education’s 2009 Creating Excellence Award “for exceptional and exemplary contributions to Career and Technical Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

Career Partners, Inc. is an eleven-year-old partnership fusing business, education, and government. Its strength comes from the dedication of the sixteen-members of the Board of Trustees. Their mission is to enable all students to make an informed career choice and become better prepared to pursue that



Chuck Gyory receives plaque for Career Partners from Chairman William C. Chase, Jr.

choice, while benefiting local businesses by providing a more capable workforce. The role of Career Partners is to provide the organizational structure, relevant and applied learning experiences, and a network of community partners.

Throughout its eleven-year history Career Partners has enabled many successful high school programs with the most successful being the “Apprentice Program”. In the 2008-2009 school year, this program was re-designed, greatly expanded and named “**Entrepreneurial Energy**” (E Squared).



E Squared 2009 Finals

The purpose of **E Squared** is to expose high school students to real-life business situations, both through training by local business people and through the team experience of creating a business venture in a competitive environment. Teams of 4-6 students from Career & Technical classes at both high schools design new business ventures and develop Business Plans to support obtaining financing. In addition to preparing a written Business Plan, each team orally presents its financing request to the **E Squared** Venture Capital Group (judges are chosen from the Culpeper business community). The winning team is selected after a two-round competition.

In 2009, 170 students participated in the **E Squared** competition. The winning team was awarded **\$30,000** in scholarship grants – **\$5,000 for each student** on the six-member winning team. All funding for the scholarships was donated by very generous local businesses and interested individuals.

Approximately 160 students will participate in this year’s 15-week **E Squared** competition, which will begin with a kickoff event in early February and end with the final competition in mid-May. One important change to this year’s program will be a substantial increase in seminars taught by local business people. In 2009 each student attended 4 seminars; in 2010 each will attend 11 seminars. In total, **E Squared** seminar trainers will teach 22 90-minute seminars on Personal Finance, Business Finance, Marketing, Business Plans, Written Presentation, and Oral Presentation. The trainers, and all who participate in Career Partners, are volunteers from the business community.

For more information about Career Partners and the **E Squared** program please contact:

School Information

Randi Richards-Lutz
Career & Technical Administrator
Culpeper County Public Schools
(540) 825-7695
richards@culpeperschools.org

Business Information

Jim Charapich
CEO
Career Partners, Inc.
(540) 825-8628
jcharapich@culpepervachamber.com

County Department of Information Technology wins award for Network Security Solution

Info Security Products Guide has presented the “2009 Best Deployment Scenario – Network Access Control” award to the Information Technology (IT) Department of Culpeper County.

This award recognizes the Department’s effort to solve a complex security issue by deploying a single solution to gain visibility and control of every device on its network.

The IT Department’s case study was published both in the September edition of Homeland Security Today, and in the May issue of Security-Park.Net.

The goal was to secure the County network from attack and ensure compliance with Freedom of Information Act regulations.

A major problem in achieving the goal was the physical layout of the County network, which is spread across a variety of older and newer buildings where space is also shared with other govern-

ment agencies and private businesses.

Security had to be achieved for sites that could not be physically seen, and visibility for every device on the network had to be achieved. Because of shared space, interconnections had to be visible, and security had to be verifiable in real time.

IT was able to overcome the problem of scattered devices, varied access and interconnectivity and achieve the goal, while also avoiding the rip-and-replace often associated with such an overall project.

Conditions included working within a limited budget and resources within the existing infrastructure.

The staff complied with regulations and secured the network from malware and cyber threats for critical government agencies in a wide variety of places.



Accepting the recognition from William C. Chase, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Supervisors are left to right , Dianna R. Catron, Director of IT and RM; Owen Morgan, Web & Software Coordinator; Nicki Taylor, Records Manager; Anthony Soucek, Network Administrator and Todd Frazier, Systems Administrator.



Eastern View High School Team Earns Honors at State Environmental Competition

Eastern View High School represented Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties at the Virginia Envirothon, a natural resources competition, on May 17 & 18, 2009 at the Airfield 4-H Center in Wakefield, VA. Coached by Science teacher and department chair Leslie Jones, the team members were Emily Phillips, Lauren Lukow, Rachel Hulvey, Rachael Murphy, Bonnie Hansen, Nina Lukow and Robert Young. The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored the Eastern View Team. Envirothon features five “in-the-field” test stations – soils, wildlife, aquatics, forestry and a current environmental issue – where teams answer questions in both written and hands-on formats. During an oral presentation teams propose a management solution related to the current environmental issue to a panel of judges consisting of industry and natural resource professionals. This year’s issue was “Biodiversity in a Changing World.” The team’s presentation addressed the topic as it related to the Big Woods tract in Sussex County. The Big Woods tract is the home of the red cockaded woodpecker, Virginia’s rarest bird.

At the Virginia Envirothon, the Eastern View team competed against 15 teams and placed 7th

overall as well as 3rd in Forestry and the Special Topic. The team members were also recognized with plaques for their achievements at the Eastern View High School Academic Awards Banquet on May 13.

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District needs help sponsoring students for next year’s Envirothon. If you can help, or would like to know more about starting an Envirothon team at your high school through 4-H, FFA, Ecology Club or home school group, contact Stephanie DeNicola at Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District at (540) 825-8591 or Stephanie.DeNicola@va.nacdnet.net

Envirothon is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Virginia’s 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, with funding provided by the Virginia Manufacturers Association Outreach Group, The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, The Virginia Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Canon Envirothon.

The mission of Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the stewardship of soil and water and the conservation of our natural resources by educating and providing technical assistance to manage, protect, and enhance the land and



The Eastern View High School Envirothon team

water for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties.

Culpeper County is represented on the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District Board by Directors John Boldridge, Laura Campbell and Thomas O’Halloran and Associate Director Jocelyn Lampert.

For information about lawn care, best management practices, reporting pollution, moving dirt and other issues regarding soil and water conservation please contact Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist of Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District at (540) 825-8591.

Culpeper County Procurement Department—Award of Excellence



The Board of Supervisors recognized their achievement with a plaque, presented by William C. Chase, Jr. Chairman, to Alan Culpeper, Director of Procurement/Communications and Robin Keagy, Buyer

The Culpeper County Procurement Department earned the 14th Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute.

The award measures innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership attributes of the procurement function.


Culpeper County is one of only 34 counties in the United States, and one of 7 government agencies to win this award.

Alan received the award saying, “Robin and

I have worked hard to achieve this award, but we did not achieve it for us. We achieved it to assure the citizens of Culpeper County that we are spending their taxpayers’ dollars efficiently, using best value practices, doing our job legally, morally, and ethically. We are citizen-centered, data-driven, and by achieving this award we have been performance measured.”

In their quest for continuous improvement, both Alan and Robin have earned additional qualifications. Robin is now a Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) through the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) and has recently earned her Virginia Contracting Officer (VCO) certification from the State of Virginia.

In the meantime, Alan has again been invited to speak at the State of Virginia Forum on Purchasing sponsored by the Virginia Department of General Services, Division of Purchasing and Supply. His topic is “Dealing with Difficult Vendors, End-Users and Annoying People.”



Emergency Services—Dispatch Program Update

The Culpeper County Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) program is proving to be successful. It was vital recently in saving a life.

“911 Where is your Emergency?” Communications Officer Conway calmly answered the phone with the standard greeting phrase for 911.

“It’s a woman. She’s having a seizure. No wait, she’s collapsed. She’s not breathing.”

Instinctively Communications Officer Conway proceeded to instruct the caller on how to do cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) while awaiting the arrival of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Officer Conway kept the caller calm and remained professional throughout the whole call. Soon after the arrival of EMS the patient did regain a pulse and was transported by EMS.

Communications Officer Conway was recognized for her actions during the September E911 Board Meeting, where she was presented with Culpeper County Public Safety Communications Center Life Saving Award.

“It’s stories like these that normally get overlooked when it comes to press time. I’m proud of Ms. Conway. Her actions really made a difference,” said Steve Basnett, Director of the E911 Center.

Since implementing the program in January 2009, there has been one other CPR save. This emergency was handled by Communications Officer Kim Hill.

On June 18, 2009, Culpeper County E-911 received state accreditation



Communications Officer Conway receives award flanked by Sheriff Jim Branch, E911 Director, Steve Basnett and Chief of Police, Scott Barlow.

for their EMD program, becoming one in twenty-four agencies in the Commonwealth to reach this milestone.

For more information please contact Director Steve Basnett or Training Coordinator Nicola Tidey at 540-727-7900.

Culpeper County E-911 Implements Training Program

Culpeper E-911 was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$38,355. The monies were obtained to provide much needed training in the E-911 center.

Currently, Communication Officers are only required to attend a two-week basic academy with no refresher training readily available. The new training program is designed to have the staff of Culpeper E-911 complete training in all areas, from Basic Call taking to more advanced class such as Active Shooting incidents. The majority of the classes can be completed online through The Association of Public Safety Communications-Officials-International (APCO) Institute.

This online availability allows employees who work on varying shifts the flexibility to complete this training without having to find shift coverage, and also eliminates overtime costs to the Department budget.

Daily, the Communications Staff of the E911 center handle 250 calls for service, and annually approximately 90,000. Calls range from keys locked in vehicles, to motor vehicle crashes, to domestic incidents. “There is an expectation from the public when they dial 911 that the voice on the other end will be calm, empathetic and professional.

Callers expect the Communications Officer to have the knowledge to help in the situation faced by the caller. The way to meet caller expectations is through quality improvement and training,” said Nicola Tidey, Training Coordinator.

“I’m very excited to take the Active Shooting class,” stated Joanne Mosher-Communications Officer, “the high priority calls don’t happen that often, so when they do it’s good to be trained in what to do so, it becomes instinct.”

So what does it take to become a Culpeper County Communications Officer?

- Pass a stringent background check
- Pass the computer based CRITICAL test
- Complete 12 weeks of In-house training
- Complete CPR training
- Complete Basic Dispatch training
- Complete EMD training
- Complete NCIC/VCIN training
- Attend and pass a two week basic dispatch academy
- Complete a six-month probationary period

Buy Local in Culpeper—a Vibrant Business Environment

Business cycles have had varying impacts on Culpeper over the years. When we experienced the recent boom, Culpeper was stretched uncomfortably by the sudden insatiable demand for housing.

When the boom came to an end, the local economy was left with an unusually high foreclosure rate, compared to other areas in the state and the country. Real estate values plummeted, and local builders suffered accordingly.

The message of 2009 seemed to be one of economic turmoil. This message increases pressures of anxiety about surviving economically and eats away at the foundation of American entrepreneurial spirit.

There is no doubt that our business community has seen a retreat to lower levels of activity. This is uncomfortable for some, painful for others, and a reason to change their entire business model for a few. This story is common across the country.

However, this is Culpeper, a place where battles were fought for independence. Our great leaders and founders of these United States fought in colonial times and in the Civil War for civil freedom which forged a path for our nation’s citizens to unite under eternal principles. And today, this is a place where our battle is for economic security. The legacy of Culpeper is clearly

strength, resilience, vision, and vitality. According to the Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development, a public private partnership which monitors the regional economy, Culpeper has a remarkably balanced spectrum of businesses. This may explain why our downtown is the envy of so many other communities and why we continue to see so many businesses choosing to locate and expand in Culpeper. Despite the economy and negative statistics, the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce has added nearly 50 new member businesses in 2009.

There are many reasons for the vibrant business environment in Culpeper.

Culpeper is a well-rounded place to grow a business. The Town Council and the Board of Supervisors have shown the leadership necessary to ensure that Culpeper has the infrastructure to support business. Culpeper is recognized for the newest fiber optic cable availability as a result of the influence of the Terremark Campus. In addition, Culpeper has access to significant amounts of electrical power through the Lake Anna Power Plant. Water and Sewer resources are available for development. Proximity to multimodal transportation options including rail, air, and major highways, makes us a **central location** from almost anywhere. Finally our quality of life, that element that cannot be replicated, is a fertile garden for businesses to plant families and become a part of the community.

We are leading the way in economic improvement with the recently established Martin’s Grocery Store, Terremark, and the Library of Congress. The creative workforce of Continental Teves managed to preserve jobs locally despite the plummeting of demand for cars and components. These are the big stories.

However, according to many experts, small business produces 7 out of 10 jobs.

Small business is the really great story in Culpeper. Look at the many new businesses that line Davis Street. Commercial vacancies are quickly replaced with new business. Some of the new businesses in Culpeper include the Suites at 249—such a perfect fit in downtown that it seems they have been here forever; A Boutique Inn is a short walk for travelers arriving on the new Northeast Regional Amtrak line—one of many such Inns around the downtown. One of the most recent ribbon-cuttings is Culpeper Mixed Martial Arts. Owner and Instructor, Mr. Doucette explained that he chose Culpeper for its quality of life. He said, “the community is a great place to establish a small business,” as he celebrated his grand opening with a crowd of 50+ students and parents cheering him on.

The numerous ribbon cuttings and grand openings are our way of celebrating the **Spirit of the Entrepreneur.**

The most valuable asset of the community is not the business or its location. The most valuable asset for a community is the cultivation and support of the entrepreneurial spirit. This support transfers to our children and to our organizations. As the parable goes “give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish

Culpeper cultivates entrepreneurial spirit.



Mulberry Court Condo - Ribbon Cutting 10-23-09

and he eats for a lifetime.”

We are supported in cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit by the foresight and vision that built Germanna’s Daniel Technology Center, our Community College for education and training. Germanna is another fundamental asset in the development of an attractive business environment for prospective and existing businesses. It is a source of a trained work force.

There is also a growing wave of new businesses in Culpeper that are not seen as we drive up Main Street.

These businesses may do more for economic growth in Culpeper than we can predict. They usually require little investment in equipment or inventory, but do present a change in thinking. We are now part of the global economy, and business no longer requires a storefront or even a single location.

Many of our existing businesses and many new businesses thrive on ecommerce, with sales and profits from the river of business called the internet. Many began with Web 1.0 and a basic website and have become interactive with Web 2.0 and social media.

This is where we will continue to see our business revenue strengthen. Customers might be local or anywhere in the world, at any hour or day, ordering wine, cheese, and chocolate, fine gifts or even “green” products from our local retailers. Purchases can be prepared for pick up or to be de-

Buy Local!
Use the internet 24/7.
Pick up or ship with ease.



Ribbon Cutting - Mixed Martial Arts

livered or shipped.

Buying Local is now 24/7 open-for-business. Buying Local supports our schools, our government, and most importantly our friends and neighbors who operate businesses in Culpeper.

One of my favorite motivational speakers – Brian Tracy – often says “If it is going to be, it is up to me”.

To me this is the spirit of the entrepreneur, the ones ready to take the risk , who make Culpeper a vibrant business community. These are our friends and neighbors. They are ignoring the prevailing economic pessimism and working to provide a secure future for our families and our community. **There is gold in the waters of economic turbulence.** It is up to us to find it.

Thank you to all those who operate businesses in Culpeper. Thank you for your vision and community spirit. **Buy Local** – What does that mean? It means everything to our local businesses! And, to our community.

Best Regards,
Jim Charapich, President / CEO

Building Department

It's here... The Big Chill Heating costs continue to rise...

SUPPLEMENTAL HEATING

Heating costs have increased and with this our concerns about saving energy along with cutting cost. The use of systems to supplement our existing heating system or even the installation of new structures may have deadly consequences. The Building Department provides advice on issues of installing some types of heating appliances. Before using a new appliance, whether fueled by gas, oil, coal, wood or pellet, it is important to research the product to ensure it is compatible and safe before using with another heating source.

All mechanical systems must be listed and labeled for use for the specific application. This listing provides the name of the testing agency. There are numerous testing laboratories with a wide variety of trademarks that identify their work. The labeling of the appliance, depending on the type of appliance, requires specific information to be on the nameplate. Such information might include rating in volts, amperes or watts, motor phase for electric comfort heating appliances and for absorption and fuel-burning appliances, British Thermal Units (BTU). Additionally, the label must state the type of fuel for operation. Some appliances such as gas logs, stoves, heating units or water heaters may be dual fuel certified and operate with either liquid propane or natural gas.

Fireplaces in singlewide, doublewide trailers or modular homes require research. The heat generated by one of these units could create a situation where there could be combustion of material in close proximity to the fireplace. Be certain that the appliance is rated for use in the particular dwelling. Combustion air, the amount of air required to allow the appliance to operate safely and properly, is critical to the operation of any fuel-burning appliance.

Prefabricated gas fireplaces are popular products for aesthetics and supplemental heat. There are two types: vented and non-vented flue type. The vented flue type will have a flue pipe to the outside and will generally have a fresh air intake incorporated within. Non-vented means just that,. It can be installed anywhere in the house (not in sleeping areas) with no flue pipe needed. Wall- hung liquid propane or natural gas room heaters are also available.

With the exception of the direct vent prefabricated fireplace, the

non-vented (ventless) and wall-hung heater (also ventless), depend on the proper combustion of air to operate safely and efficiently.

Carbon Monoxide is known as the “Silent Killer” and should not be taken for granted.

If using the air from the inside of the structure for combustion air, the following requirements must be met: 50 cubic feet per 1,000 input BTU (British Thermal Unit). The input BTU rating can be found on the listing label on the appliance.



Cubic feet are calculated by the square footage of the floor multiplied by the height of the ceiling.

Example: A 12'x24' living room with a 35,000 Input gas fireplace non-vented.

$$12' \times 24' \times 8' = 2,304 \text{ cubic feet}$$

$$35,000 \text{ divided by } 1000 = 35$$

$$35 \times 50 \text{ cu ft} = 1,750 \text{ cu ft of combustion air required}$$

The size of the room is adequate to install the fireplace. In the case of a smaller room, alternative methods can be used to utilize more interior air or outside air might be used as a supplement.

Trade Permits are required for the installation of appliances burning gas and solid fuel, such as oil, coal, wood, pellet, etc. to ensure the equipment is being installed to meet the manufacturer's installation requirements and the building code.

If using a contractor, be sure the contractor that has been selected is certified in his or her trade, and holds a Virginia Contractor's License.

Our Office welcomes all do-it-yourself (DIY) project questions. Contact us for any code or administrative questions. It is our intent to ensure that your project is safe for you, your family and our community.

County of Culpeper
Department of Development
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
302 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA 22701
(540) 727-3405
www.culpepercounty.gov

Commissioner of the Revenue

Terry L. Yowell



PERSONAL PROPERTY - WHO MUST FILE AND WHEN?

Effective January 1, 2008, Culpeper County Board of Supervisors amended the filing requirements for personal property. Culpeper County is a “File By Exception” locality, which means that annual filings are no longer required on motor vehicles, motorcycles, campers, boats and trailers unless there is a change in situs (location where property is garaged/docked or parked) or ownership. **Effective January 1, 2010, Culpeper County Commissioner of the Revenue will no longer mail annual reporting forms as annual filings are no longer required.**

The owner must file a new or amended personal property return with the Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office within 60 days of when any of the following events occur:

1. Change in ownership due to purchase, acquisition, sale, trade or disposal.
2. Change in name or address of the person or persons owning or leasing the motor vehicle, motorcycle, camper, boat or trailer.
3. Change in the use of the motor vehicle or motorcycle from personal to business use or vice versa.
4. Any event or occurrence which causes a motor vehicle, motorcycle, camper, boat or trailer to acquire or lose situs of taxation.
5. Any other changes affecting the assessment or levy of personal property tax on the motor vehicle, motorcycle, camper, boat or trailer for which a return was previously filed.

Annual filings are still required on aircraft and mobile/manufactured homes. The annual filing date is May 1, and any returns filed after May 1 will be subject to a late filing fee of \$2.00 or 10% of the tax due, whichever is greater.

Personal Property Returns may be obtained by contacting the Commissioner of the Revenue’s office or online at web.culpepercounty.gov and click on the Commissioner of the Revenue page under County Government.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q – I am a new resident to Culpeper County. What do I need to do?

A – All vehicles should be registered with Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). All vehicles must be registered with our office no later than 60 days after moving into the County.

Q – I am planning on disposing of my vehicle. What do I need to do?

A – Virginia DMV requires notification within 30 days of selling, trading, junking, or otherwise disposing of a vehicle by completing the back portion of the vehicle registration form. Upon notifying DMV, you must also report disposal of vehicle within 60 days to the Commissioner of the Revenue’s office.

Q – What happens if I move out of Culpeper County?

A – Within Virginia:

If you move to a locality within Virginia after January 1, you are liable for personal property taxes to Culpeper County for the full year. If you move to a locality within Virginia prior to January 1, you must change your address and garage jurisdiction with DMV to the new locality within Virginia to avoid continued assessment and taxation by Culpeper County.

Outside Virginia:

If you move outside Virginia after January 1, you are liable for personal property taxes to Culpeper County for the full year. However, you must make sure you cancel your Virginia tags and register your vehicle in your new state of residence within 30 days of your move to avoid continued assessment and taxation by Culpeper County.

HIGH MILEAGE

If you believe your vehicle may qualify for a value adjustment due to high mileage, be sure to submit third party documentation on or before May 1. Documentation must be legible and must indicate mileage on or before January 1. Documentation may be in the form of a state inspection receipt (displaying year, make, model and VIN), oil change or service center repair receipt or simply have the garage read your odometer and document it. In order to ensure the highest value reduction, submit documentation indicating the mileage as close to January 1 as possible. By law, if mileage is taken into consideration as an adjustment to January 1 fair market assessed value, the adjustment must be determined using the mileage table included with the January issue of the NADA guide.

The effect of mileage may vary depending on the Class of the vehicle as listed in the NADA guide. For example, a 2006 Chevrolet Aveo and a 2006 Corvette may not receive the same value adjustment for identical mileage.

Please note that this documentation must be submitted ANNUALLY until the mileage reaches 150,000.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND MACHINERY & TOOLS – WHEN TO FILE?

Owners of Tangible Business Personal Property and Machinery & Tools are required to report property owned as of January 1 by May 1 to avoid the late filing penalty. Any returns filed after May 1 will be subject to a late filing fee of \$2.00 or 10% of the tax due, whichever is greater.

CULPEPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

110 W. Cameron St. Culpeper, Va. 22701

January 2010



Important Numbers

Emergency..... 911
Sheriff's Office.....(540) 727-7520
Records Office.....(540) 727-3400
Crime Tip Line.....(540) 727-0300

Teens welcome to join Deputies

Students at Culpeper County High School and Eastern View High School are invited to shadow Sheriff's Office Deputies as part of a day-long job shadow program offered by the schools.

Students should contact Dean Rowe, the career counselor for the schools at (540) 825-8310 x3555. Applicants need Rowe's approval and an interview with a Deputy.

Holidays made brighter by shopping cops

Last month Sheriff's Deputies helped local children in need shop for holiday gifts. Funding came from an annual golf tournament in August which raised more than \$14,000. Organizers thank all those who participated in and donated to the gift program.

Popular Sheriff's Office programs return to Culpeper for another year. Residents can attend free of charge.

Self-defense classes for women, concealed weapons permitting and youth academy available in 2010

Last year Deputies facilitated free classes for residents that drew dozens of participants. Due to their popularity, residents are encouraged to reserve spots early in classes when dates are announced throughout the year.

Criminal Justice Academy

Classes include instruction about law enforcement operations such as investigations, forensic science, patrols and the judicial process.

RAD

The Rape, Aggression, Defense system for women explores risk avoidance, awareness and hands-on self-defense techniques.

Youth Academy

Similar to the criminal justice academy but designed especially for teenagers in the County.



Deputy Kilene Madison (left) takes on a RAD student during self-defense training.

For more information on these classes call (540)727-3444 ext. 326. trip to the shooting range. For more information on permitting classes call (540) 727-3444 ext. 288. See you there!

Concealed Weapons

Permitting class includes a

Keep thieves at bay with VIN etching on vehicles

Residents concerned about automobile theft may want to consider VIN etching as a deterrent to thieves.

The Sheriff's Office has a mobile machine that Deputies use

to etch an automobile's VIN number onto its windows. The etching serves as one blanket of protection for vehicles and is offered at no cost.

Last year Deputies were honored

by the Virginia Department of State Police for working to prevent automobile thefts. Businesses or community groups interested in hosting an etching session can call (540) 727-7520 ext. 566.



Happy New Year from Sheriff Branch

As we start a new year in Culpeper, I want to thank all my staff for their hard work in 2009. Despite economic challenges, which all government offices faced, they provided public safety services that I am

sincerely proud of. I wish my staff, and all residents of the County, a safe and prosperous new year. In 2010, we will continue to serve Culpeper to the best of our abilities.

Sincerely, Jim Branch Jr.

Have you become physically and/or verbally abusive to your spouse or significant other? Help is available.

Contact Culpeper County Criminal Justice Services at 540-727-3450 for referral to a treatment provider.

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

David L. DeJarnette, Treasurer

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

The Office of the Treasurer for Culpeper County has moved! After many years of being located on the ground floor of the Culpeper County Courthouse building, the Office moved to our new location in the former Culpeper National Bank/Central Fidelity/Wachovia Bank building at:

151 N Main St, Ste 205 Culpeper VA 22701
(corner of N Main & E Cameron).

Please stop by to see our new office location or contact us through our primary mailing address:

Culpeper County Treasurer
PO Box 1447
Culpeper VA 22701

TAX COLLECTION ACTIONS FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

- **PUBLISHING OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:** Delinquent accounts are published in the newspaper annually and are listed on the Treasurer's website.
- **DISTRESS & SEIZURE OF PROPERTY:** The Treasurer is authorized to collect delinquent taxes by distress. The distress may be exercised without a court order. The Treasurer, or the Sheriff at the direction of the Treasurer, may seize any property to satisfy a tax liability.

- **TREASURER'S LEVY:** The Treasurer is authorized to levy any person indebted to or having in his hands, estate of a taxpayer. Most common forms of Treasurer's Levies include Employment Liens, Bank Liens, and Lease Liens. The Treasurer's Lien is an administrative tool and does not require court action.
- **DMV REGISTRATION WITHHOLDINGS:** The Treasurer may enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles whereby the Commissioner will refuse to issue or renew any vehicle registration of any applicant who owes to such county, city or town any delinquent tangible personal property tax.
- **SET-OFF of STATE REFUNDS:** The Setoff Debt Act allows the state to withhold an individual's state tax refund and remit that withholding to the local government. Any debt owing to a local government is eligible for the state's debt setoff process.
- **WARRANT IN DEBT OR MOTION OF JUDGMENT:** The Treasurer or his deputy in person or by counsel may institute and prosecute all proceedings to enforce the payment of any tax in courts not of record. Typically a Warrant in Debt filed in General District Court is used to collect delinquent taxes. Delinquent taxpayers now residing outside the Commonwealth of Virginia are also subject to this tax remedy through services of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.



Telephone: (540) 727-3442

Fax: (540) 727-3478

E-mail: ddejarnette@culpepercounty.gov

Department of Real Estate Assessments

Culpeper County's Department of Real Estate Assessments is located at 118 W. Davis Street in the old Town Hall building. There are currently 6 County employees in the Assessments office – 3 Real Estate Appraisers, 1 Transfer/Information Specialist, 2 Real Estate Assistants and the County Assessor.

As established by the Board of Supervisors, real property assessments are performed in-house on a 2-year cycle. The latest assessment became effective January 1, 2009 and will remain in effect until January 1, 2011. Assessments are generated using information derived from real estate sales, construction costs and reported income and expenses that occur during the 2 years prior to the effective date. The total value of all taxable real property is a major factor used by the Board of Supervisors in setting tax rates. All new construction occurring between assessments is visited, valued and added to the tax rolls as it is built.

The Assessments Office is responsible for administering the Board of Supervisors' mandated Land Use Program. The Land Use program is intended to preserve agricultural land and to encourage the proper use of that land. Though agricultural and forested acreage meeting the specified requirements is assessed at market value, a Land Use value is established for taxation purposes,

thus allowing an incentive to the owner to continue that use. Land Use values are determined at the time of reassessment using information provided by the State Land Evaluation Advisory Council (SLEAC).

Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled is another Board of Supervisors' mandated program administered by the Assessments Office. This program requires annual application. It is designed to assist property owners who have a gross household income of \$50,000 or less per year. The property owner's combined financial worth, excluding the dwelling and up to 10 acres of land can not exceed \$200,000. With qualification for this program a taxpayer's real estate tax may be relieved for an amount up to \$1,500. By mid-January, existing participants in this program will receive a letter with instructions for verifying and updating your existing information. If you are not currently in the program and feel you may qualify, please contact the Assessments office.

The County's Department of Real Estate Assessments is open to the public between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM each business day. Please feel free to drop in with any questions or concerns you might have. We can be reached by phone at (540) 727-3411.

Donna Culp
County Assessor

Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney
Gary L. Close

Carol Roberts-Geer: Dedicated Public Servant



Carol Roberts-Geer managing the flow in the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney

After 20 plus years of service in the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Carol Roberts-Geer retired October 30. She served three Commonwealth’s Attorneys—Jack Jeffries, John Bennett and Gary Close---and as a result saw the County turn from a primarily rural agriculturally-based community to what it is today.

When she started, Roberts-Geer was the only full-time employee of the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office. Even the Commonwealth’s Attorney was part-time. Later the County hired a part-time assistant to help when Mr. Jeffries fell ill. At retirement she will leave an office of three secretaries, six attorneys and two victim advocates.

“It’s a different office—but then the County has grown so much,” Roberts-Geer explains.

She and Gary Close reminisced just before her retirement about her career working for the County. “I used to keep Tums for him in the desk,” she said nodding towards Close. “He was so serious about everything.”

They both remember the day Carol told Close she needed help—“I just remember she had had it,” Close laughed. “His eyes got so big,” she rejoined.

The office was so dependent on Roberts-Geer that the first time she took vacation, Close bought a voice recorder and attached the phone to it....there was no backup.

They both laughed at Robert-Geer’s no nonsense style. “She would draft a letter for me---and then I would have to soften it up a little,” Close said.

The Office celebrated Robert-Geer’s retirement at a formal gathering at Close’s home Oct. 30. Joining the Office staff were County Administrator Frank Bossio, East Fairfax Supervisor Steve Walker and Board Chairman William Chase.

Amidst the candlelight and clinking china Close toasted Roberts-Geer noting her dedication to public service and to the people of Culpeper County.

“Carol is the definition of what a good public servant is: honest, dedicated and knowledgeable. Culpeper County is indeed richer because of her work...”

But it is not the end of the line for Roberts-Geer at the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office. She will come back to work part-time at the front desk.

“I told her I would open up the vault if she didn’t come back,” Close joked.



Mimi Miller and Carol Roberts-Geer confer in Office of Commonwealth’s Attorney



A Career of Service

If you see Carol Roberts-Geer around Culpeper, take a minute and thank her for her service to Culpeper.

I learned a long time ago that secretaries are the life blood of any professional office. They set the tone and they get the work done. Carol did all of that and more during the twenty years I knew her: first as an assistant commonwealth attorney and later as Commonwealth Attorney. She gave a full measure of service for the citizens of Culpeper.

Now you might rightly say, well, she got paid to work. Why make a big deal out of it? My answer is that she never was a time-clock watching employee. And the citizens of Culpeper benefited because of that. When we had a big jury trial Carol stayed until late in the evening in case we needed her. For many years, Carol was the last to leave the office and the first to arrive. And in the early days of her career and mine, Carol put off vacation leave---because we could not spare her. And there have been times when Carol could have taken time off because of illness but she did not. Not because she was asked to come in to the office but because, in the early days, she knew we had no backup. As a result the office remained open--a seemingly small but very necessary service.

Twenty plus years of this attitude adds up: all to the benefit of the citizens of Culpeper.

Anyone who has employees knows, or should know, that the measure of success they enjoy is directly the result of the people that work for them. That surely is true for me.

Thank you Carol.

Gary L. Close
Commonwealth’s Attorney

Culpeper County Board of Supervisors

Culpeper Minutes

A quarterly publication



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The Administration Building ♦ 302 North Main Street Culpeper, VA 22701

dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov



Social Security Administration

Questions about Social Security?
Visit www.socialsecurity.gov for answers

Question:

I applied for my baby's Social Security number in the hospital but have not received it. How long does it take?

Answer:

In many states, where the birth registration process is electronic, the average wait is four weeks. But in other states, the wait can be twice or three times as long. Here's why. When a parent requests a Social Security number for a newborn as part of the birth registration process in the hospital, the state vital statistics office forwards to Social Security the information needed to assign a number to the child and issue a card. From the time Social Security receives the data, the process of assigning the number and issuing the card takes about two weeks. Learn more about Social Security cards and numbers at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber

Question:

When a Social Security beneficiary dies, does the funeral home notify Social Security or is the death notification up to the family?

Answer:

Many funeral directors voluntarily provide death information directly to Social Security. But, family members of a deceased individual still should notify

Social Security. For information on what action to take when a beneficiary dies, see our online publication, *What To Do When A Beneficiary Dies*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deathbenefits.htm

Question:

I've heard you can apply for retirement benefits online. But isn't it easier just to go into an office?

Answer:

Filing online means there's no need to travel to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. Retiring online is easy and convenient. You can apply in as little as 15 minutes. In most cases, that's it — no papers to sign or mail in. Want to learn more? Visit www.socialsecurity.gov and click on the "Retirement" tab in the top, left corner. Our website will:

- Walk you through the application process;
- Tell you what information you'll need to answer the questions on the application; and
- Describe the documents you may need to present after you apply.

So what are you waiting for?

Get started now at www.socialsecurity.gov

Nancy E. Davis, Culpeper District Manager

Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): 540-829-7500
To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free